13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Anatherum nimmonii Hitchcock and Chase, Contrib. U.S. Nat. Herb. 18: 285. 1917. 814x

Khus-khus[1]. — Vetiver.

Vetiver is a native of Asia but is cultivated in the tropics of both hemispheres.

Screens used to perfume living quarters are constructed from the roots of this species (23). In Dominica, as elsewhere, the roots are dried and bundled to place in drawers for scenting linen, etc. [314]

The leaves of vetiver are bleached by boiling, are sundried, and then are split in two by the Caribs for plaiting hats. [285]

Specimen citation: 227.

Zea mays Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 971. 1753.

Maize, Indian Corn. — Maïs (French); mal, mi (patois). — *oudzi* (m) (cf. Tupi *abatia*), *mdzizi* (w).

Maize is a tropical American contribution to the world's cereals, yet the exact source of its origin in the Americas is still debatable. It has been grown as a basic American crop since prehistoric times, and even in pre-Columbian days was cultivated from southern Canada to Chile and Argentina (1) (21) (22). Corn was first seen growing in the West Indies by Columbus, who called it maiz. According to MANGELSDORF and REEVES (38), the flint corn so characteristic of the West Indies, was probably introduced from South America although it is most closely related to Central American types. [m]

Corn is grown for food by the Island Caribs who always eat it roasted, never boiled; nor is corn flour ground locally. Actually this vegetable is more a delicacy with the Indians than a staple food, and is reputed to have the properties of an aphrodisiac. Kernels of maize are sown or planted in preference by newly pregnant girls who believe their condition will cause the plant to bear more abundantly. As in all other agricultural activities — sowing and reaping, felling timber, etc. — planting of corn is rigidly regulated by the phases of the moon. 814x 243 [252]

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

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[1] Varieties of the yam (*Dioscorea trifida*) with purplish, reddish, or whitish flesh are also called « khus-khus » or « kus-kush » in Dominica.